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Memorandum

To: Managed Care Behavioral Health Medical Directors of Health and Recovery Plans (HARPs) and HIV Special Needs Plans (SNPs)

From: Thomas Smith, MD, Associate Medical Director, NYSOMH

Date: April 26, 2017

Re: Health and Recovery Plans (HARPs) and HIV Special Needs Plans (SNPs) Behavioral Health Guidance memo - Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) – Crisis Services

New York State (NYS) is providing clarification on utilization management for Short-term Crisis Respite and Intensive Crisis Respite. These services are currently available within Adult Behavioral Health Home and Community Based Services (BH HCBS). All HARP enrolled members and HARP eligible members enrolled in a HIV SNP are eligible to receive these services.

Prior authorization is not required for access to these two crisis services, whether the provider is participating or not participating with the health plan. However, providers should notify MMCOs of admissions when they occur. For Short-term Crisis Respite, HARPs/HIV SNPs can require notification and/or concurrent review following the initial 72 hours.

A Plan of Care (POC) is not a prerequisite to receiving these services. A BH HCBS Eligibility Assessment is also not required for access, however, the individual should receive the BH HCBS Eligibility Assessment during the course of care at these crisis respite services.

As per the [NYS BH HCBS Provider manual](#), there are limitations to length of stay for these services.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

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|-----------------------|----------------------|
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**Department
of Health**

**Office of
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Substance Abuse Services**

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